

Metropolitan King County Council

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April 1, 2005

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

We are writing to request a federal investigation into whether illegitimate voting and processing errors in King County during the 2004 Washington state general election were the result of unlawful efforts to undermine election system safeguards.

In the five months since November's election we have learned that hundreds of unqualified voters voted in King County on Election Day. We have also learned that large numbers of unverified provisional ballots were voted at polling locations contrary to state law. We do not know whether widespread voting by unqualified voters or the unprecedented number of processing errors was a consequence of misfortune, willful neglect or orchestrated conduct.

Our constituents are left without a firm understanding of the extent of ballot processing errors and unqualified voting that occurred. Allegations of voter fraud, public admission of "mistakes" made by King County elections officials, and a growing list of felons who cast illegal votes continue to threaten the legitimacy of past and future elections.

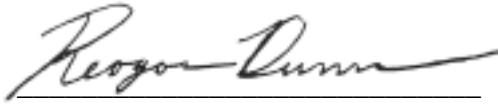
On two occasions the King County Council had the opportunity to hear from local elections officials. Several of our questions regarding the accuracy of certain reports and numbers went unanswered. In addition, more facts came to light regarding provisional ballots and felons voting. Recently, King County Prosecuting Attorney Norm Maleng announced that his legal staff would be reviewing a list of alleged felon voters and his office has already announced that 118 individuals' voter registrations will be challenged.

Officials at all levels of government have a vested interest in eliminating voter fraud. The United States Department of Justice in particular has always made it a top priority to ensure fair and accurate elections — including investigating alleged voter fraud. We are confident that an investigation by your office will play a crucial role in determining whether allegations of voter fraud are true.

As representatives in King County government, we are working collaboratively to repair many of these failed mechanisms. However, we believe that legitimacy is unreachable without the active scrutiny of a neutral party to independently investigate these complex allegations. We understand the delicate nature of this issue, and call on the objective resources of Department of Justice to help legitimize the administration of future elections while restoring the public faith that every legal vote counts.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Councilmember Reagan Dunn
District Six



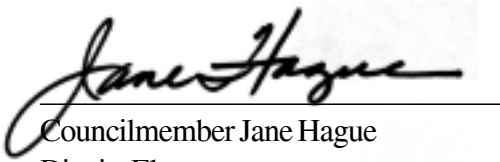
Councilmember Kathy Lambert
District Three



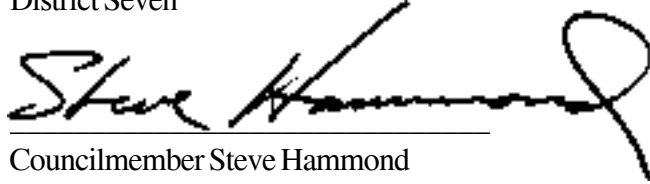
Councilmember David Irons
District Twelve



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer
District Seven



Councilmember Jane Hague
District Eleven



Councilmember Steve Hammond
District Nine

cc: The Honorable John McKay, United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington